

## § 1227.501

## 30 CFR Ch. VII (7–1–12 Edition)

### § 1227.501 What are a State's responsibilities to ensure that reporters correct erroneous data?

To ensure the correction of erroneous data, you must:

(a) Ensure compliance with the provisions of 30 CFR parts 1216 and 1218, any applicable handbook specified under 30 CFR 1227.401 (f) and (g), interagency memorandums of understanding to which ONRR is a party, and the *Standards*;

(b) Ensure that reporters accurately and timely correct all fatal errors as designated in the *Standards*. These errors include, for example, invalid or incorrect reporter/payor codes, incorrect lease/agreement numbers, and missing data fields;

(c) Submit accepted and corrected lines to ONRR to allow processing in a timely manner as provided in the *Standards* and 30 CFR part 1219; and

(d) Comply with the procedures for appealed demands or orders, including meeting timeframes, supplying information, and using the appropriate format.

[62 FR 43064, Aug. 12, 1997, as amended at 67 FR 19112, Apr. 18, 2002; 75 FR 61087, Oct. 4, 2010]

### § 1227.600 What automated verification functions may a State perform?

Automated verification involves systematic monitoring of production and royalty reports to identify and resolve reporting or payment discrepancies. States may perform the following:

(a) Automated comparison of sales volumes reported by royalty reporters to sales and transfer volumes reported by production reporters. If you request delegation of automated comparison of sales and production volumes, you must perform at least the following functions:

(1) Performing an initial sales volume comparison between royalty and production reports;

(2) Performing subsequent comparisons when reporters adjust royalty or production reports;

(3) Checking unit prices for reasonable product valuation based on reference price ranges ONRR provides;

(4) Resolving volume variances using written correspondence, telephone inquiries, or other media;

(5) Maintaining appropriate file documentation to support case resolution; and

(6) Issuing orders to correct reports or payments;

(b) Any one or more of the following additional automated verification functions:

(1) Verifying compliance with lease financial terms, such as payment of rent, minimum royalty, and advance royalty;

(2) Identifying and resolving improper adjustments;

(3) Identifying late payments and insufficient estimates, including calculating interest owed to ONRR and verifying payor-calculated interest owed to ONRR;

(4) Calculating interest due to a lessee or its designee for an adjustment or refund, including identifying overpayments and excessive estimates;

(5) Verifying royalty rates; and

(6) Verifying compliance with transportation and processing allowance limitations;

(c) Issuing notices and bills associated with any of the functions under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section; and

(d) Providing assistance to ONRR for any of these delegated functions on appealed demands or orders, including meeting timeframes, supplying information, using the appropriate format, taking remanded actions, modifying orders, and providing oral and written briefing and testimony as expert witnesses.

### § 1227.601 What are a State's responsibilities if it performs automated verification?

To perform automated verification of production reports or royalty reports, you must:

(a) Verify through research and analysis all identified exceptions and prepare the appropriate billings, assessment letters, warning letters, notification letters, Lease Problem Reports, other internal forms required, and correspondence required to perform any required follow-up action for each function, as specified in the *Standards* or your delegation agreement;

(b) Resolve and respond to all production reporter or royalty reporter inquiries;

(c) Maintain all documentation and logging procedures as specified in the *Standards* or your delegation agreement;

(d) Access well, lease, agreement, and production reporter or royalty reporter reference data from ONRR and provide updated information to ONRR; and

(e) Comply with procedures for appealed demands and orders, including meeting time frames, supplying information, and using the appropriate format.

**§ 1227.700 What enforcement documents may a State issue in support of its delegated function?**

This section explains what enforcement actions you may take as part of your delegated functions.

(a) You may issue demands, subpoenas, and orders to perform restructured accounting, including related notices to lessees and their designees. You also may enter into tolling agreements under section 15(d)(1) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1725(d)(1).

(b) When you issue any enforcement document you must comply with the requirements of section 115 of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1725.

(c) When you issue a demand or enter into a tolling agreement under section 15(d)(1) of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1725(d)(1), the highest State official having ultimate authority over the collection of royalties or the State official to whom that authority has been delegated must sign the demand or tolling agreement.

(d) When you issue a subpoena or order to perform a restructured accounting you must:

(1) Coordinate with ONRR to ensure identification of issues that may concern more than one State before you issue subpoenas and orders to perform restructured accounting; and

(2) Ensure that the highest State official having ultimate authority over the collection of royalties signs any subpoenas and orders to perform restructured accounting, as required under section 115 of the Act, 30 U.S.C. 1725. This official may not delegate signature authority to any other person.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

**§ 1227.800 How will ONRR monitor a State's performance of delegated functions?**

This section explains ONRR's procedures for monitoring your performance of any of your delegated functions.

(a) A monitoring team of ONRR officials will annually review your performance of the delegated functions and compliance with your delegation agreement, the *Standards*, and 30 U.S.C. 1735, including conducting fiscal examination to verify your costs for reimbursement.

(b) The monitoring team also will:

(1) Periodically review your statistical reports required under § 1227.200(e) to verify your accuracy, timeliness, and efficiency;

(2) Check for timely transmittal of production report or royalty report information to ONRR and other affected agencies, as applicable, to allow for proper disbursement of funds and processing of information;

(3) Coordinate on-site visits and Office of the Inspector General, General Accounting Office, and ONRR audits of your performance of your delegated functions; and

(4) Maintain reports of its monitoring activities.

[62 FR 43084, Aug. 12, 1997, as amended at 75 FR 61087, Oct. 4, 2010]

**§ 1227.801 What if a State does not adequately perform a delegated function?**

If your performance of the delegated function does not comply with your delegation agreement, or the *Standards*, or if ONRR finds that you can no longer meet the statutory requirements under § 1227.106, then ONRR may:

(a) Notify you in writing of your non-compliance or inability to comply. The notice will prescribe corrective actions you must take, and how long you have to comply. You may ask ONRR for an extension of time to comply with the notice. In your extension request you must explain why you need more time; and

(b) If you do not take the prescribed corrective actions within the time that ONRR allows in a notice issued under